

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COMMISSION

HARLINGEN, TEXAS

September 3, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Harlingen Elective Commission was held on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Town Hall, City Hall, 118 E. Tyler Street, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Mayor and Commissioners

Chris Boswell, Mayor
Victor Leal, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 5
Danny Castillo, District 1
Tudor Uhlhorn, District 2
Michael Mezmar, District 3
Basilio "Chino" Sanchez, District 4

Staff Present

Carlos Yerena, City Manager
Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary
Richard Bilbie, City Attorney

Mayor Boswell called the meeting to order; a quorum was established. A notice of the meeting was duly posted according to State Law. The following proceedings were held.

Invocation/Mayor Pro-Tem Victor Leal

Mayor Pro-Tem Leal gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Mayor Boswell led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed those in attendance.

1) Public Announcement of Events

David Ralph, Public Information Officer announced the following events.

- a) Tri –Girl Sprint Triathlon by Bicycle World RGV, Victor Park Pool, Saturday, September 6, 2014, 7:00 a.m.;
- b) Festival y Ceremonia Civica - Dia del la Independencia, Lon C. Hill Park across from Park Blvd. Saturday, September 13, 2014, Festival 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Civic Ceremony, Harlingen Municipal Auditorium 7:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m. ;
- c) Senorita Independencia de Mexico 2014, Fair Park, September 13, 2014, Check –in time 3:30 p.m.;
- d) On The Farm-Who You Callin’ Chicken Art Exhibit by Tony Schaub Painting and Dimensional Works, Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum, Exhibit runs through November 9, 2014; and
- e) Outdoor Show & Sell Expo – Greyhound Valley Race Park, Harlingen, TX., Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. & Sunday September 28, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2) Proclamation – proclaiming September 4, 2014 as “Juan C. Barron Day.”

Mayor Boswell read and presented a proclamation to Juan Barron, retiring City Parks Department Employee of 40 years proclaiming September 4, 2014 as “Juan C. Barron Day”.

Mayor Boswell stated 40 years of services indicated something special about the City of Harlingen. He congratulated him and expressed him sincere appreciation on behalf of the City Commission for the many years of service to the City.

Mr. Barron also expressed his appreciation in (Spanish) to the City and his fellow employees for their cooperation and teamwork. He stated that he would remain faithful to the City and if the City ever needed his help he would volunteer his time.

3) Approval of Minutes

a) Regular Meeting of August 20, 2014

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal and seconded by Commissioner Uhlhorn to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. .

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4a) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance amending the City of Harlingen Zoning Ordinance No. 07-27, Section 8.03(g) Special Off-street Parking Regulations, to amend off-street parking requirements in the Downtown Improvement District; and Section 16, Non-Conforming Uses and Structure to clarify the term “reasonable value” when referring to partial destruction of a non- conforming use; and to include a provision which addresses off-street parking for similar uses in existing vacant building.
- b) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance for a specific use permit to allow an adult business (electronic cigarette store) in a General Retail (“GR”) District located at 1418 E. Tyler Avenue, Suite 12, bearing a legal description of Lots 7-12, Block 4, Windsor Place Addition.
- c) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance to name the street along the Valley International terminal to “Heritage Way” and the street south of Valley International Airport terminal and north of Loop 499 to “Airport Drive.”
- d) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance amending the City of Harlingen Zoning Ordinance No. 07-27, Section 2, Definitions, to amend the definition of a daycare to establish a process which allows a daycare to be operated out of a church in the designated zoning district listed for a church. Applicant: City of Harlingen
- e) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance for a specific use permit (“SUP”) to allow a bar/lounge in a General Retail (“GR”) District located at 640 Ed Carey Drive bearing a legal description of Lot 4, Block 1, Southpoint Subdivision Unit 2. Applicant: Justin Kemmerling.
- f) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance of the City of Harlingen, Texas amending Chapter 51, Sections 51.003 and 51.017 of Chapter 51 of the Harlingen City Code as amended to amend rates for potable water and sewage and providing for publication and ordaining other matters related to the foregoing.

Mayor Boswell announced Item No. 4(e) would be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve Items a, b, c, d and f under the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Carlos Yerena, City Manager stated Item No. 4(e) was removed from consent agenda to further review the length of the permit due to the discussions held at the previous meeting in regards to the 6 month permit review.

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez to approve and adopt the ordinance on second and final reading for a Specific Use Permit for Justin Kemmerling for a 6 month review. Motion carried unanimously.

For the record, the caption of the following ordinances read as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 14-30

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HARLINGEN ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 07-27) SECTION 8.03(G) SPECIAL OFF-STREET PARKING TO AMEND OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; AND SECTION 16, NON - CONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES, TO CLARIFY THE TERM "REASONABLE VALUE" WHEN REFERRING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NON-CONFORMING USE; AND TO INCLUDE A PROVISION WHICH ADDRESSES OFF-STREET PARKING IN EXISTING VACANT BUILDINGS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-31

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 07-27) OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN: TO ISSUE A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR AN ADULT BUSINESS (ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE STORE) IN A GENERAL RETAIL ("GR") DISTRICT LOCATED AT 1418 E. TYLER AVENUE, SUITE 12, BEARING A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LOT 7-12, BLOCK 4, WINDSOR PLACE ADDITION, SUBJECT TO: (1) MAINTAINING THE REQUIRED OFF-STREET PARKING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY REGULATIONS; (2) MAINTAINING THE PROPER STAND AND CITY PERMIT'S; (3) COMPLY WITH THE HARLINGEN CODE OF ORDINANCE CHAPTER 130.07, UNLAWFUL SUBSTANCES; AND (4) COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING, BUILDING INSPECTIONS, FIRE PREVENTION, POLICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS TO THE FOREGOING.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-32

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN TO NAME THE STREET ALONG THE VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL TO "HERITAGE WAY" AND THE STREET SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL AND NORTH OF LOOP 499 TO "AIRPORT DRIVE"; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-33

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HARLINGEN ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 07-27) SECTION 2, DEFINITIONS, TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A DAYCARE TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS WHICH ALLOWS A DAYCARE TO BE OPERATED OUT OF A CHURCH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS TO THE FOREGOING.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-34

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 07-27) OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN: TO ISSUE A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT TO JUSTIN KEMMERLING TO ALLOW A BAR/LOUNGE IN A "GENERAL RETAIL (GR)" DISTRICT LOCATED AT 640 N. ED CAREY, BEARING A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LOT 4, BLOCK 1, SOUTHPOINT SUBDIVISION UNIT 2, SUBJECT TO: (1) MAINTAINING THE EXISTING OFF STREET PARKING SPACES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY REGULATIONS; (2) OBTAINING & MAINTAINING THE PROPER STATE AND TABC PERMITS; (3) MUST REPAIR THE NON OPERABLE CAMERAS AND MAINTAIN VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON ALL ENTRANCES AND EXITS, AND MAINTAIN A 30 DAY RETENTION OF THE VIDEO; (4) PROVIDE ADEQUATE LIGHTING ON THE PREMISES; (5) PROVIDE A LICENSED SECURITY GUARD IN THE PARKING LOT DURING PEAK HOURS OF OPERATION ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY FROM 9:00 P.M. TO 2:00 A.M. (6) COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANNING, BUILDING INSPECTIONS, HEALTH, FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-35

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS
AMENDING CHAPTER 51 SECTIONS 51.003 AND 51.017 OF
CHAPTER 51 OF THE HARLINGEN CITY CODE AS AMENDED TO
AMEND RATES FOR POTABLE WATER AND SEWAGE AND
PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND ORDAINING OTHER
MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING.

PASSED AND APPROVED on first reading on this 20th day of August, 2014
PASSED AND APPROVED on second and final reading on this 3rd day of September, 2014

City of Harlingen
/s/ Mayor Chris Boswell

ATTEST:

/s/ Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary

- 5) Consider and take action to approve a resolution accepting Valley International Airport adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Michael Browning, Director of Valley International Airport stated the project revenues for the proposed budget was \$6,341,500. The total expenses were \$5,796,250 and the capital budget was \$4,945,000. Mr. Browning recommended approval to adopt the Valley International Airport Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Commissioner Uhlhorn inquired on the timeline to relocate the TSA explosive detection equipment.

Mr. Browning responded it would be approximately two years until the Construction and Airport Board would complete it due to some situations with Delta and Sun Country Airlines during the winter months with congestion and back-ups at the check points. There were passengers waiting in line along the elevator and escalators which was a dangerous situation and it needed to be addressed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Commissioner Mezmar to approve the resolution accepting the Valley International Airport Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Mayor Boswell complimented Mr. Browning on the preparations of the budget document. It was very informative it included several highlights of the previous year which included the extension of a five (5) year lease with United and Southwest Airlines, new fire equipment and most notable the adoption of a new master plan and design standards for the airport. He thanked Mr. Browning and his staff for a great job.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6) Consider and take action to approve a resolution accepting Harlingen Waterworks System's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Darrell Gunn, Director of Harlingen Waterworks System (HWWS) stated their adopted budget consisted of \$19,591,000 in total revenues; \$251,263.00 in expenses; \$12,692,000 in capital outlay; and \$1,980,000 in debt principal retirement and related transfers to and from restricted cited reserves. Mr. Gunn recommended approval of the HWWS Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Mayor Pro-Tem Leal inquired if there would be three (3) independent lines installed at Expressway 77 and what was the timeline for the installation of the fire hydrants.

Mr. Gunn responded there were three (3) existing lines that were in need of replacement due to malfunctions and in regards to the fire hydrants, the projects would be in phases up to 2019. Most fire hydrants were installed as land was developed such as new subdivisions.

Commissioner Castillo questioned what was the timeline for the demolition of the water tower at Pendleton Park?

Mr. Gunn responded as soon as TCEQ would grant them permission. It was a small project, bids had been secured and a tentative contract for the demolition and would be done in the next fiscal year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mezmar and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the resolution adopting the HWWS Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Boswell also complimented Mr. Gunn on the preparation of the budget document which highlighting a snapshot and goals of the Harlingen Waterworks System and looked forward to the demolition of the tower at Pendleton Park. He thanked Mr. Gunn and the Board for their work.

7) Consider and take action to approve the Harlingen Proud Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Nick Consiglio, Chairman of Harlingen Proud Advisory Board gave a power point presentation highlighting the Harlingen Proud Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 consisting of beautification projects; special event; professional services; awards; recycling center; marketing efforts; anticipated projects; new programs and the allocations for each line item. Melissa Boykin, Executive Director of Harlingen Proud has done a great job in moving the organization forward. Professional Services was a new addition to the budget for accounting and auditing purposes. Another item was landscaping services to develop a master plan in conjunction with city staff in identifying five (5) major thoroughfare areas for beatification. Awards of \$1,600 were granted to the winners of certain Harlingen elementary schools for the collection and recycling of phone books in a form of a contest. This also generated revenues and allowed them to donate \$4,000 for supplies for the recycling center. There was a very modest marketing budget of \$4,500 for advertising and \$2,000 for promotion items. Projected income for the recycling center for the fiscal year was \$85,000 and possibly \$100,000 in revenues compared to \$30,000 in 2007. Other sources of income would be the development of grant writing programs and sponsorships from local businesses. Harlingen Proud was at a "Good Financial Standing." Jennifer Munoz, employee with the Planning and Zoning Department worked on the Governor's Award and the application rated 7.7 points away from a \$250,000 grant from the state. They now knew what deductions needed to be worked on to bring the funds to Harlingen next year to fund the projects that were discussed.

Commissioner Mezmar questioned that with the projected revenues of \$85,000, what items brought the most money?

Mr. Consiglio responded it was mostly the corrugated cardboard and white paper.

Commissioner Sanchez thanked Mr. Consiglio and the Harlingen Proud Board for all their efforts in beautifying the City.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve the Harlingen Proud Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Consider and take action to approve an ordinance on first reading to amend the City of Harlingen's Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Elvia Trevino, Finance Director stated this would be the second amendment to the Harlingen Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. She highlighted the amendment, an increase of \$422,672.00 in the General Fund and an increase of \$444,877.00 in expenditures mostly for police department grants that were not budgeted at the beginning of the year which included the FAST and ICAC Grants and Texas Tropical Behavior Unit. The Municipal Golf Course Fund increased in expenditures by \$40,000, approved by the City Commission for the demolition of the Pan Am Building. The Sanitation Fund increase expenditures by \$1,550,000 for the reconstruction of the transfer station and replacement of equipment due to the fire. Ms. Trevino

recommended approval of the ordinance amending the City of Harlingen's Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Richard Bilbie, City Attorney read the caption of the ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mezmar and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the ordinance on first reading as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- 9) Consider and take action to approve an ordinance on first reading adopting the City of Harlingen's Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 by a record vote.

Ms. Trevino stated budget workshops and public hearing were held to discuss the budget and to solicit comments from the public. The proposed budget was posted on the City website and a copy of the proposed budget was available in the City Secretary's Office for public inspection. This was the first reading of the ordinance adopting the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and a record vote was required. The proposed budget revenues totaled to \$68,663,619.00 and the expenditures were \$68,625,294.00 as itemized in the attached "Exhibit A" and was a balanced budget. She recommended approval of the ordinance.

Mr. Yerena pointed out this budget was based on a 2.5% salary increase for the city employees.

Commissioner Sanchez recommended a 3% increase for the labor force employees.

Mayor Boswell recommended approving the ordinance on first reading adopting the budget and if there were any other changes that it be done before the second reading of the ordinance.

Mr. Bilbie read the caption of the ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Uhlhorn to approve the ordinance on first reading as presented. Motion carried as follows: FOR: Mayor Pro-Tem Leal, Commissioners: Castillo, Uhlhorn, Mezmar, and Sanchez. AGAINST: None

Mayor Boswell thanked Ms. Trevino and her staff for their work in preparing a balanced budget.

- 10) Consider and take action to approve an ordinance on the first reading adopting the 2014 ad valorem tax rate for Maintenance and Operation for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 by a record vote.

Ms. Trevino stated two public hearings were held along with the publication announcing the proposed tax rate. The adoption of the tax rate was done in two parts. The first part was the Maintenance and Operation -0.450901 per \$100 valuation. The second part of the tax rate was the Interest and Sinking Fund which totaled to the proposed tax rate of 0.588827. This was the same tax rate as the prior years. All legal requirements were met for the adoption of the tax rate. Ms. Trevino recommended approval of the M&O tax rate.

Mr. Bilbie read the caption of the ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mezmar and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the ordinance on first reading as presented.

Mayor Boswell announced this was not a public hearing, but would allow a time of two (2) for those individuals that wish to speak for against the proposed tax rate.

Jerry Moore, 709 Town Lane felt the proposed tax rate should be lower.

Robert Leftwich, 2326 E. Adams referred to the comments made by Mayor Boswell at the 2014 State of the City Address in regards to the target for the reserve fund of 90 days and were looking at 140 days and climbing. City leaders were not taking advantage of tax cuts which they could do. The Mayor and Commissioners were out of touch with the community.

Desi Martinez, 1806 Haverford stated the water base rate should be lower.

Yolanda Shoffeitt, 285 Altas Palmas, stated this was taxation without representation.

Gail Moore, 709 Town Lane, invited the Mayor Commissioners to come by her residence and see how nice it was although the property values had decreased.

Dorothy Nesmith, 729 Town Lane, felt that tax rates were directed towards the school district. Her concern was the vast number of students that were not residents of the community. Property values had dropped by 25% due to all the installation of the many cell towers around the community and the tax statements should be adjusted accordingly.

Don Ingness, 301 "O" Street, stated the city wasted a lot of water at the parks and leaks were attended to in a timely manner. It was reported that the City had the highest unemployment rate and how could it be expected to pay higher taxes. Many businesses had moved out of town.

There being no further comments, Mayor Boswell closed the public discussion.

Commissioner Sanchez stated he was against increasing the property tax value.

Commissioner Mezmar stated the City did not have any control over the property values and did not determine the tax rate. Cameron County Appraisal District determined what the property value would be.

Mayor Boswell stated property values had not dropped. The certified tax roll has increased the property values by \$3 million dollars. There had been approximately 50% increase on property values over the past ten years. Unemployment was the lowest in the Valley which represented a 2 ½ drop over the past two (2) years. The City did not control the School District tax rate. The tax rate that was being proposed was a level tax rate and remained the same.

For the record, the motion carried as follows: FOR: Mayor Pro-Tem Leal, Commissioners: Castillo, Uhlhorn and Mezmar AGAINST: Commissioner Sanchez.

- 11) Consider and take action to approve an ordinance on first reading adopting the 2014 ad valorem tax rate for Interest and Sinking for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 by a record vote.

Mr. Bilbie read the caption of the ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the ordinance on first reading as presented. For the record, the motion carried as follows: FOR: Mayor Pro-Tem Leal, Commissioners: Castillo, Uhlhorn, Mezmar, and Sanchez AGAINST: None.

- 12) Consider and take action to approve a resolution adopting the Harlingen Downtown Improvement District 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget.

Ms. Trevino stated the Harlingen Downtown Improvement District Budget was not part of the City's budget and was approved by resolution the same as the Airport and Water Works System. Projected revenues were \$240,975.00 and expenditures were \$287,823.00. The Downtown Improvement District Board reviewed and approved the proposed budget. She recommended approval of the resolution.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- 13) Consider and take action to approve the list of streets for the Street Overlay Program for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Javier Zamora, City Engineer stated staff would prepare a list of the streets that were in need of repairs and if approved by the City Commission the streets would be overlay with 1.5 to 2.0 inches of asphalt. This would be done on the existing street to repair surface failures thus

extending the life of the streets. The proposed streets totaled to approximately 2.76 miles and represented 1.06% of the total city streets. A list and map of proposed streets was included in the agenda packet should the City Commission wish to make any changes of the streets. Mr. Zamora recommended approval of the list of streets.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal and seconded by Commissioner Uhlhorn to approve the list of streets for the Street Overlay Program for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Mayor Boswell stated the City had a good fiscal management over the last several years for street improvements. Funding was available to continue doing improvements to the existing streets in the upcoming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Uhlhorn inquired on the timeline to improve Wilson Road.

Mr. Zamora responded staff would develop a plan and it should not take long before improvements in that area would be done.

14) Consider and take action to accept or reject bid and award contract for Hot Mix Asphalt Material under informal Bid Number 2014-2016.

Mr. Zamora stated the current contract for purchase of hot asphalt material would expire September 15, 2014. The hot mix was used to repair streets and alleys throughout the city. Repairs included street cuts, potholes, road failures and minor overlay projects. Staff requested competitive sealed bids for hot mix asphalt to be delivered to and picked up by the city. A total of three bids were received for asphalt. A contract price was requested that would remain in effect for 12 consecutive months with the option to extend the contract for an additional 2 years at one year increments upon agreement by the City and vendor. Mr. Zamora recommended approval to accept the bids submitted by Anderson Columbia and Frontera Materials, Inc. for the following: a) Hot Mix Asphalt Picked –Up by the City to Frontera Materials, Inc @ \$64.00 per ton and b) Hot Mix Asphalt Delivered to the City by Anderson Columbia Co. Inc. @ \$69.60 per ton.

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to accept the bids as recommended by staff from Frontera Material, Inc and Anderson Columbia, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

15) Consider and take action to approve Sister City Agreement with the City of Harlingen and City of Matamoros, Tamaulipas to strengthen the agreement and understanding between two cities and institutions in their respective territorial areas, in order to intensify common efforts, and facilitate the sharing of experiences and common activities.

Mayor Boswell welcomed Hugo Rodriguez Gutierrez, Commissioner District 13, Carlos Alberto Reyes Gonzalez, Commissioner District 3, and Reynaldo Del Toro, Representative of City of Matamoros.

Mr. Yerena stated the City of Harlingen has been working with the City of Matamoros, Tamaulipas for several years. The cities would like to formalize their actions by putting a Sister City Agreement in place. The agreement would call for the City to cooperate with Matamoros in trade, economic and industrial development, culture, education, science and technology, sports, tourism, environment, social development, urban planning, civic protection and fire, and public safety. The Cities of Harlingen and Matamoros have bilateral cooperation between each other and would also like to join the implemented projects and activities that are effective in the economic and social development of both parties. The City of Matamoros is the 2nd largest and most popular in the state of Tamaulipas. It ranks the 39th largest city in Mexico and is one of the fastest growing cities in Mexico. The two cities share a bridge where the City of Harlingen works jointly towards the planning and economic development along the bridge.

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the Sister City Agreement between the City of Harlingen and City of Matamoros, Tamaulipas and appoint Carlos Yerena, City Manager as the City's representative.

Mayor Boswell stated the City had been working closely with the City of Matamoros and the entire region on several projects. This would be part of the City's efforts to improve the relations and to work together for the benefit of the whole region. He appreciated the City of Matamoros willingness in reaching out to the City of Harlingen.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 16) Consider and take action on a request from the City of Matamoros, Tamaulipas for a donation of fire equipment and declare the equipment as surplus property and authorize the City Manager to prepare and execute all necessary documents.

Mr. Yerena stated one of the areas the City was working closely with the Sister City of Matamoros was the civil protection and fire. Discussions had been held with the City of Matamoros representatives regarding a request to the City of Harlingen about the donation of a surplus aerial ladder trunk that was inoperable and no longer met state and federal safety compliance.

Roy Rubio, Fire Chief stated the vehicle was a 1991 aerial ladder truck, the City has owned it for 23 and the life expectancy of a truck of its kind was 20 years. The aerial apparatus was in need of a motor, transmission and did not meet state regulations. The City of Matamoros requested the truck as is. Chief Rubio recommended declaring the aerial ladder truck as surplus and donating it to the City of Matamoros.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal and seconded by Commissioner Mezmar to declare the fire equipment as surplus and donate it to the City of Matamoros. Motion carried unanimously.

- 17) Board appointments

Mayor Boswell

Vanessa Serna – Harlingen Housing Authority Board (re-appointment)
Julio Cavazos – Harlingen Housing Authority Board (re-appointment)

Commissioner Uhlhorn

Edna Tamayo – Senior Citizens Advisory Board

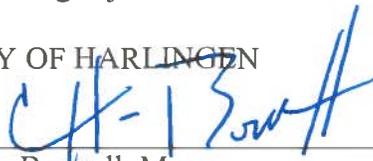
Motion was made by Commissioner Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner Uhlhorn to approve the reappointment of Vanessa Serna and Julio Cavazos to the Harlingen Housing Authority Board and Edna Tamayo to the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously.

- 18) Citizen Communication

Yolanda Shoffeitt, 285 Altas Palmas, stated there was an X file –Twilight Zone case scenario going on when it came to obtaining public information from the Police Department in regards to wrecked vehicles. She asked when the City would repair the vehicles.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned

CITY OF HARLINGEN


Chris Boswell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary